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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF FREDERICK COUNTY EARNS ACCREDITATION
FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*National Children's Alliance recognizes The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County for its
delivery of high quality and effective services to child abuse victims through accreditation*

Frederick, Maryland, 2/8/2016 – The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County has been awarded accreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County has been serving the children and families of Frederick County since 1999. Working together with our partners (The Department of Social Services, State's Attorney's Office, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, and other local and federal law enforcement agencies) the Child Advocacy Center makes child safety and wellbeing a priority. In 2015, the Child Advocacy Center served 243 children and 183 parents/caregivers. As an Accredited Member of National Children's Alliance, The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County is dedicated to providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse.

National Children's Alliance awards Accredited Membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. National Children's Alliance updated these standards in 2010 to reflect the most recent evidence-based practices in the field of child abuse intervention and prevention. According to these standards, Accredited Members must utilize a functioning and effective Multidisciplinary Team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. National Children's Alliance also considers standards regarding a center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention, and child focused setting.

Suggestion: "As part of a team of individuals and organizations dedicated to preventing and responding to child abuse, we recognize the importance of accreditation from National Children's Alliance and supporting the Multidisciplinary Team approach. Accreditation not only validates our organization's proven effective approach to responding to allegations of child abuse, but also provides consistency across the child advocacy center movement as a whole," said Lynn Davis, Director.

"The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County is to be commended for its excellent work serving victims of child abuse. As the national association and accrediting body for Children's Advocacy Centers across the country, our goal is to ensure that every victim of child abuse has access to high quality services that result from professional collaboration," remarked Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children's Alliance.

For more information about **Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County**, visit www.frederickcountymd.gov/CAC.

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The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County promotes child wellbeing by providing a child and family focused center to address reports of child maltreatment. We seek to prevent and reduce trauma to children and families using a multidisciplinary approach to investigation, prosecution, treatment, education, and advocacy.

National Children's Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for the over 750 children's advocacy centers serving each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first, National Children's Alliance provides support and advocacy to its accredited membership, as well as numerous developing centers, multidisciplinary teams and child abuse professionals around the country, and the world. As the national authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, the purpose of National Children's Alliance is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. Founded in 1998, National Children's Alliance provides accreditation opportunities, financial assistance, training, technical assistance, research and education to communities, child abuse professionals and children's advocacy centers throughout the United States in support of child abuse intervention, advocacy and prevention. www.nationalchildrensalliance.org